



James E. McGreevey  
Governor

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**



Susan Bass Levin  
Commissioner

# Family Self-Sufficiency Program

## Greetings from Governor McGreevey and Commissioner Levin

One of the cornerstones of this administration is to help all New Jersey families achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency. The Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program does just that.

Since this administration started, more than 200 low-income families have completed the program and DCA has made available approximately \$1.8 million in escrow/saving funds to these families. More than 600 families are actively participating in the program.

We are proud to support this program, and programs like it, to help you obtain a better future for your tomorrow. We encourage you to learn more about the FSS Program and start to make your dreams of a better future come true.

With all good wishes,

James E. McGreevey  
Governor

Susan Bass Levin  
Commissioner

### **What is the Family Self-Sufficiency Program?**

FSS is a voluntary, five-year program that enables families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency through the support of public and private sector organizations.

### **Who is Eligible?**

Families participating in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.



### **Why is the FSS Program Successful?**

With stabilized housing, families are able to:

- Invest their resources to explore career and personal goals
- Obtain training and/or education
- Identify barriers to their self-sufficiency
- Develop plans leading to economic independence

### **How does the FSS Program Work?**

- Motivated families volunteer to participate in the program
- They are then entered into a Contract of Participation with DCA
- The contract includes the family's goals and objectives that must be met by the end of the contract
- Public and private community resources provide the support needed to assist families in achieving their goals



### **Why is the FSS Program Unique?**

- The FSS Program offers a financial incentive to participating families
- The program provides for the establishment of an escrow/savings account when the family moves from welfare to earned income or increases earned income
- The amount of the escrow credit is based on the amount of increased rent paid by the family as a result of increases in earned income
- Upon successful completion of their Contract of Participation, escrow/savings funds will become available to the family
- The family is free to use these funds as they choose



**For more information on the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, please call (609) 292-9025.**